

Mr Bartlett

MONUMENT TO THOMAS H. GALLAUDET, LL. D.

PROCEEDINGS

OF A

CONVENTION OF DEAF MUTES,

HOLDEN AT

MONTPELIER, VERMONT,

February, 1853,



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MONTPELIER :
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1853.

PROCEEDINGS.

FEBRUARY 23, 1853.

ACCORDING to previous notice, the Deaf Mutes of Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts, met in Convention at the Brick Church, in Montpelier, on Wednesday, February 23, 1853.

The object of the meeting was the raising of more funds for the erection of a Monument to the memory of the late Rev. THOMAS H. GALLAUDET, LL. D., founder of the American Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb, in Hartford, Connecticut.

The Convention was called to order by GEO. M. LUCAS, formerly a Secretary, who introduced JONATHAN P. MARSH, of Roxbury, Mass., and presented him to the assembly as chairman of a committee of arrangements designated the evening previous. [See note on page 16.]

The chairman reported the list of officers nominated by the committee, as follows :

PLINY O. BURNAM, of Middletown, Vt., *President.*

DANIEL W. PHELPS, of Middlebury, Vt., *Vice President.*

WILLIAM B. SWETT, of Nashvile, N. H., *Secretary.*

JOSEPH O. SANGER, of Westboro', Mass., *Ass't Secretary.*

J. W. MARSH, of Roxbury, Mass., *Treasurer.*

A fervent prayer was offered by JONATHAN P. MARSH.

The **PRESIDENT** acknowledged his nomination with much feeling, made a few pertinent remarks concerning the convention, and expressed his desire to preside over it well, and wishing good success in the undertaking.

The President then introduced Mr. **THOMAS BROWN**, of Henniker, N. H., who delivered the following Address :

THOMAS BROWN'S ADDRESS.

MR. PRESIDENT :—I am very happy to meet here around me several familiar faces. I rejoice to see so goodly a number convened in behalf of a cause so noble and meritorious. For the kind invitation of your zealous committee, I render them my heartfelt thanks, and hope to be able to discharge a duty assigned me satisfactorily.

This convention is the second held in the State of Vermont, to be henceforth praiseworthy of an imitation of deaf mutes in the sister States, in securing a long contemplated object, for aiding in the erection of a monument to the memory of our lamented benefactor and first founder of a deaf mute school in America. The notice being so short, very many of you had not an opportunity of attending the last convention. It will be my aim to give you such a lecture as to awaken us all to a sense of our duty, and to pay our tribute to the memory of him, to whose benevolent services we owe our education, and the hopes and happiness it affords us.

To whom am I alluding ? To the Rev. **THOMAS H. GALLAUDET**, who was our beloved friend in life, and of whom we always speak affectionately and gratefully now that he is dead. During his life, Dr. **GALLAUDET** did not cease to interest himself in the great work to which he devoted himself in his earlier days. It seemed to be his laudable object to promote the welfare of indigent mutes, and

of those who were deprived of the natural sense, up to his death. After a prayerful consideration of his future profession, he chose to become teacher of unfortunate mutes. While on his tour to Europe, he was beseeching God to show him in what way he could be most useful in the amelioration of the condition of ignorant mutes and the advancement of their education. During an active preparation for instruction, on public occasions, by the efficient aid of Mr. CLERC, Dr. GALLAUDET was indefatigable in advocating the claims of deaf mutes upon the public benevolence ; and has thus secured a general liberality on the part of all older States, and most of the new ones. If there were no school for mutes now, how could we, being ignorant, manage so as to get together in this convention ? O ! it was impossible !! Thanks that our merciful God has prepared and selected such a man as was Dr. GALLAUDET, for a lovely friend and kind teacher of deaf mutes.

Dr. GALLAUDET was always cheerful and diligent in doing good, and though great and wise in literature, he was still more judicious and lovely in disposition, and such a beloved benefactor so endeared a large circle of his late pupils that they would meet him as children would gladly meet their affectionate father. It is a subject of grateful reflection, that God was so good as to have spared his life to enjoy himself by witnessing a grateful demonstration of the hundreds of his late pupils, on the presentation of a service of silver plate on the 26th of September, 1850 ; but against our hope, it pleased God to remove by death, within a year, our beloved friend, from continuing to enjoy this substantial testimonial of gratitude for a long season. During a long passage home across the ocean, Dr. GALLAUDET and Prof. CLERC were laborious, the former in teaching the latter, who was a Frenchman, in the English language, while the latter was initiating the former in the mode of teaching

of the deaf and dumb. May God aid us in a grateful remembrance of Dr. GALLAUDET, while our grateful praise is due to Mr. CLERC, his assistant companion.

Upon the laying of his monument, will all of us be gathered to worship it as an idol? No! it is to perpetuate his memory as the first founder of a deaf mute school in the Union. In consideration of his valuable service, in the teaching department for deaf mutes, it is good for us all mutes to meet occasionally in convention and talk of such a useful mute school in affectionate regard for the noble benevolence of Dr. GALLAUDET; and also, of our dear Union in happiness, freedom, peace and prosperity, in grateful esteem for the wisdom of Gen. WASHINGTON, until mortal flesh shall fail us.

The result of our meeting here in a happy interchange of thoughts, friendship and acquaintance, we owe to his own philanthropy; therefore it is desirable that we educated mutes should endeavor to raise such funds as are necessary to complete a proposed monument to his memory, to be laid nowhere but within the grounds of the American Asylum, as an immortal beacon to coming ages.

It is regretted that one of the following resolutions, passed at the meeting of some mute officers held at the Asylum, to collect contributions, was too hasty to put into effect. A better way for soliciting subscriptions should be gradual, and continued until it is sufficient to defray the expenses for his neat monument, which shall comport with his lovely character. As far as I have learned, all we have been able to collect, up to some time in September last, amounted to about one thousand dollars. The erection of a suitable monument may require from \$1500 to \$2000, yet I think \$1500 may be enough for that purpose.

I heartily congratulate your very efficient committee upon their zealous efforts in gathering so many of us on

this occasion, and do hope that other mutes, who did not give their mite, may cheerfully lend their aid in our favor. I think that the officers of the said association may do well to ask some aid of those of the Asylum to secure a fund sufficient to defray the expenses of the Gallaudet monument this year.

I feel confident that the month of September, for the gathering at the laying of said monument, will afford many mute farmers and mechanics the most convenient time to be present at the ceremony of laying the said monument. It may be highly recommended that the several institutions so alter once the usual time for one vacation as to permit both teachers and deaf mutes the opportunity of coming to pay their grateful honor for a monument to the memory of Dr. GALLAUDET.

In my estimation, an occasional meeting in convention is very beneficial to the improvement of our minds. I do hope that a zeal on your part will awaken an interest in our mute friends. It is a matter of much regret that many mutes, who have gone through a considerable course of study, have returned home and neglected their studies until their education seems as if they never were in any school ; and it is earnestly hoped that Divine Goodness will bless a proposed society with such success as to afford an advancement of their neglected education at home.

Mr. CLERC begins to decline in age, but may God bless him with success some longer, to remind us of his being an early companion of Dr. GALLAUDET.

When we return to our homes, I shall always follow you all in thoughts, feeling and spirit ; and perhaps we may never meet together again. I will take this opportunity to ask that the best of heaven's blessings may rest on you all, while on earth and in the life to come.

Friends, now I close this imperfect address by saying,

Let every one of us never forget the name of the beloved father of an American Mute School, as well as that of the wise father of American Freedom.

Mr. BROWN also made remarks and offered resolutions, and on motion of the President, they were adopted, as follows :

The object of our assembling is not only to enjoy the pleasure of meeting our old school mates, but, also, to do what is good.

As we have had free passes granted here and back, we render our warmest thanks to the officers of the several railroads for their generosity and liberal interest in our welfare. May God bless them with success.

Resolved, That during our attendance in this convention, it is the duty of every one of us to keep quiet, decent, and to be diligent in doing what is to be useful.

Resolved, That such as are appointed to keep this convention in good order, should be kind, careful, and prompt.

GEO. M. LUCAS arose, and addressed short remarks on the subject of an annual society to improve our education.

Adjourned till half past two, P. M.

The Convention met pursuant to adjournment.

The President introduced Mr. JOHN O. DAVID, of Amherst, N. H., who gave the following Address :

JOHN O. DAVID'S ADDRESS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:—I am happy to make an address to this interesting congregation. We assemble here for important purposes, which may be conducive to the

improvement of our minds, if we can carry them into effect. Let us take the subjects into consideration with deliberation and put them into effect with decision. Let us do what we say. Let us correct our errors.

We meet here in commemoration of our beloved and lamented benefactor, Dr. GALLAUDET, who is now numbered with the dead. Let him not be forgotten in the dust. We must cherish a strong remembrance of his benevolent acts. He destroyed the kingdom of darkness in which we were formerly buried, and introduced us into the kingdom of light in which we rejoice in the extreme. We see him no more on earth ! I trust he reigns with CHRIST in glory. We must think of his noble virtues. He did not endeavor to gain wealth and to gain earthly honors, fame and popularity ; he did not thirst for his own aggrandizement : but he chose to exercise self-denial and to make painful efforts to enlighten the deaf and dumb. He sought our happiness and prosperity. We are happy to see ourselves stored with knowledge. We can read, write and enjoy independence like others. We have reason to be thankful to GOD, who placed us in this prosperous and happy country, which is the Canaan, flowing with honey and milk.

Dr. GALLAUDET seemed to regret his inability to accomplish his noble object and excellent plans in a perfect manner, in consequence of his protracted illness. Had he been an able bodied man, he must have continued principal of the American Asylum and carried his purposes into effect and perfection in a spirited manner and with his whole strength. But GOD did otherwise. We know the LORD works all things after the counsel of his own will ; therefore we must submit to His wisdom and righteousness. We lament the departure of Dr. GALLAUDET ; however, we are consoled in the belief that his remarkable charity will render his name immortal. When he resigned his office as

principal of the Hartford Asylum, he did not give himself to fascinating pleasure, but he always did good to others, continuing his connection with the deaf mutes. He was the author of several excellent books, and took good care of the insane, till the inexorable hand of death snatched him away. I think it was not so arduous and toilsome as when he was our principal. I am much consoled in knowing that he was a devoted disciple of CHRIST, and wrestled with God for the salvation of the deaf and dumb. I saw him afraid to do his own will in opposition to God's. He was fully prepared for death and eternity, and fell asleep in CHRIST peacefully. We are making efforts to erect a proper monument to his memory. Those, who can speak and hear, regret his death, admiring his noble character in a great measure.

I wish to lecture on another subject. I think it will do good to form and establish a system for the amelioration of deaf mutes out of school. Some of them make considerable progress in learning. Some do not give any indications of advancement in knowledge. Others are apt to neglect to be endowed with attainments, converting themselves willingly into slaves of ignorance ! How can we remove such an evil ? Some of them imagine the sufficiency of their education, but they are much mistaken. They ought to endeavor to learn more and more. It is better to discover defects than to boast of low knowledge. Humility is gracious, but pride is despicable. The former is strength and wisdom, but the latter is weakness and folly. Knowledge is mighty and wonderful. You know truth is mighty and must prevail.

It is a noble performance to store the mind with knowledge. Farmers and scientific men assemble in many places and form an agricultural society to discuss various subjects, on the improvement of the soil and the increase of

crops, taking great pains to find out defects in their cultivation. Some men meet and establish a lyceum, by means of which they acquire talents, influence and eminence. Religious persons meet and make prayers, paying their attention to the spiritual and temporal prosperity of their respective churches, where their pastors are frequent speakers and manifest indications of genius and elevation. Congressmen, legislators and lawyers often make speeches, and become distinguished and brilliant. I am sorry that the deaf mutes are deprived of those advantages. Most of them have no wealth, and do not enjoy such privileges. They live in different places at a great distance from each other, therefore they experience difficulties in performing journeys from place to place for want of money. There are from ten to fifty deaf mutes in many towns in different parts of this country. I think it may do good to have a religious meeting on the sabbath, and a sunday school, and to establish a lyceum and anything else at home, if they are not able to travel to and fro. They must improve those privileges within their power.

I hope those who can speak and hear, will sympathise with them and devise means to contribute to their assistance. God will bless and reward them. I am anxious to see deaf mutes lead a virtuous life and keep far from errors. We know this world is a vast prison of dangerous and fascinating temptations, to which solitude gives great advantage. We may prove that the communion of saints is conducive to their strength and safety. Eve was alone and tempted by Satan, and her fall was awful and disastrous.

Let us meet here to discuss these important subjects for our own good. We must examine our hearts, pluck the weeds of darkness and error, and cultivate our barren minds. We are poor, but God is rich, to whom we must look for wisdom and strength. Let us help each other with a wil-

ling heart. We see there is no schism in the body. Hand loves hand. Foot loves foot. Eye loves eye. Ear loves ear. Leg loves leg. All the members act in perfect harmony. They never quarrel with each other. How beautiful and admirable is their love! Let us form a harmonious body and no schism will be cherished. It would be gratifying to see deaf mutes live in harmony.

Interesting remarks were made on the Monument project, and on mental improvement, in various ways, by J. P. MARSH, of Roxbury, Mass., CHARLES BARRETT, of Boston, JOSEPH O. SANGER, of Westboro', Mass., SAMUEL ROWE, of Lawrence, Mass., and by the Vice President, DANIEL W. PHELPS, of Middlebury, Vt.

Adjourned till seven o'clock, P. M.

Owing to unfavorable weather, the Convention did not meet according to adjournment; consequently no business, of any importance, was transacted. A contribution of money was raised in the evening, by those in attendance, at a meeting holden in the Dining Hall of the Temperance House.

FEBRUARY 24, 1853.

The Convention was again called to order by the President, at 9½ o'clock, A. M.

Prayer was offered by JOHN O. DAVID.

Messrs. GEO. M. LUCAS, T. BROWN, J. P. MARSH, J. O. DAVID, and others, spoke at some length, on the importance of forming a society for the intellectual, social and moral improvement of the Deaf Mutes, and its advantage in ameliorating their condition, and advancing their intellectual knowledge.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The President reported the following preamble and resolutions, from Messrs. BROWN and MARSH, which were adopted :

RESOLUTIONS BY MR. BROWN.

WHEREAS, by a just dispensation of Divine Wisdom, our first benefactor, Rev. THOMAS HOPKINS GALLAUDET, LL. D., has been taken from us, leaving us, all mutes, to deplore him as our beloved father, our kind teacher, and our wise guide : therefore,

Resolved, That while we hereby feel conscious of his eternal absence as a true friend, and an ardent advocate of deaf mutes, it is a subject of much gratifying reflection that

he has left behind him a valuable treasure, which is adopted by those pioneers in the useful department for deaf mutes.

Resolved, That as we hereby consider on his past useful service, we shall use means to complete a monument as a token of our grateful regard for him.

Resolved, That Prof. LAURENT CLERC, having survived Dr. GALLAUDET, still continues in an active service, and may he be blessed to live some longer to remind us of his being an early coadjutor with Dr. GALLAUDET.

Resolved, That the affectionate regard of Messrs. WELD, TURNER, PEET, and BARTLETT, for the late Dr. GALLAUDET, as his disciples, by ardently adopting his approved mode in mute instruction, merits our grateful approbation and best wishes for their future success, and also of Mr. WHITON, an earlier pupil of Dr. GALLAUDET.

Resolved, That this convention hereby recommends that the month of September be fixed upon for the gathering at the laying of the said monument, so as to afford many mute farmers and mechanics the most convenient time to come and witness the ceremony.

Resolved, That this convention hereby earnestly recommend to the several institutions of deaf mutes, that they so change once the time of vacation as to enable both teachers and some pupils, if not all, to be present at the laying of the aforesaid monument.

Resolved, That the Secretary be requested to forward the foregoing resolutions to the President of the Gallaudet Monument Association.

RESOLUTIONS BY MR. MARSH.

Resolved, That thanks be given to the President and other officers of the Vermont, New Hampshire and Massa-

chusetts Railroad companies, for their benevolence in granting a free pass to and from the Convention.

2d. That thanks be given to the Vermont Deaf Mute Committee, for their labors and promptitude. We hope they will be blessed and remembered.

3d. That thanks be given to the first Congregational Church in Montpelier, for the use of their house.

4th. That thanks be given to Mr. Burnham, master of the Temperance House, for his attentive promptitude, and excellent board.

5th. That thanks be given to the President and Vice Presidents and Secretaries of the Convention, for their zealous labors.

6th. That thanks be given to the editor of the Northern Enquirer for gratuitously printing cards and tickets, and to the Telegraph Company for its useful services.

Mr. BROWN handed a part of Prof. LAURENT CLERC's address to the deaf mutes at the funeral of Rev. THOS. H. GALLAUDET, LL. D., to Mr. MARSH, who read it to the Convention :

EXTRACT FROM MR. L. CLERC'S ADDRESS
AT THE FUNERAL OF REV. THOMAS H. GALLAUDET, LL. D.,
HARTFORD, CONN., SEPT. 12, 1851.

“ The deaf and dumb deeply feel the loss, which they have sustained by the death of REV. THOMAS H. GALLAUDET, LL. D. He was like a father to them ; and a kind teacher, and a sincere friend, too, was he.

Weep, pupils ; weep, Mrs. Gallaudet ; weep, children of Mr. and Mrs. Gallaudet ; weep you, all who have known him. Your tears do you honor ; but the most suitable manner of rendering respect to one who was dear to us all

in life, is to imitate his virtues, and we shall find, in practising those virtues which characterised him, some alleviation of our grief."

A committee of three was chosen, who reported the nomination of **THOMAS BROWN**, of Henniker, N. H., **JONATHAN P. MARSH**, of Roxbury, Mass., **SAMUEL A. LEWIS**, of Willimantic, Conn., **GEO. M. LUCAS**, of Bradford, Vt., and **HIRAM P. HUNT**, of Gray, Me., as committee from the States of New England, to establish a Society, and to frame a Constitution and By-Laws. **THOMAS BROWN**, Foreman.

PLINY O. BURNAM, *President.*

WILLIAM B. SWEET, *Secretary.*

N O T E .

On the assembling of the Convention, the committee of arrangements, happy to find more of their friends from abroad, or out of the State, than they expected, cheerfully resigned their appointment, leaving the entire convention to form a union, and arrange several new and important plans, and the new committee to be chosen from each of the several States represented, as might be deemed desirable.

GEO. M. LUCAS, Secretary, Bradford,
DANIEL W. PHELPS, Middlebury,
JAMES AUSTIN, Swanton,
JAMES S. MEACHAM, Guildhall,
GALEN H. ATKINS, Bradford,

} *Committee.*

MONTPELIER, Tuesday eve., Feb. 22, 1853.

